

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF DR.
THELMA EVELYN GOODRICH-
HILL, PHD

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise with great sadness as I pay tribute to Dr. Thelma Evelyn Goodrich-Hill an outstanding daughter of Harlem who recently passed away at the age of 85. As I speak with profound sorrow, I ascend to celebrate a life well lived and to remember with fondness the accomplishments of a remarkable woman who, over her many years and under much adversity, was a leader in the sphere of business.

Thelma was born on April 19, 1923, in the City of New York. She was one of four daughters born to James E. Daniel Goodrich. Thelma was a life-long resident of Harlem and was a product of New York City's public school system, graduating from Wadleigh High School. She received her professional training at the Harlem Academy of Business, City University of New York's Baruch School of Business, and the College of Insurance.

As a daughter of a real estate entrepreneur, Thelma inherited her father's interest in the world of business becoming one of the first women in Harlem to own and operate her own brokerage firm, Thelma E. Goodrich Real Estate & Insurance Inc.

In January 1960, she united with Lawrence Dudley Hill in holy matrimony. Their marriage was a loving and committed union, lasting 45 years until his passing in September 2005.

Over the years, Thelma emerged as a stabilizing force in the Harlem community in addition to blazing many new trails as a female entrepreneur. In 1982, after many years of the company's growth, Thelma E. Goodrich Inc., merged with the firm of Ernest E. Johnson Insurance Inc., forming Goodrich Johnson Brokerage. This company, a full service insurance brokerage business, continues to effectively handle the needs of businesses and churches throughout the State of New York.

Throughout her busy and involved career, Thelma shared her knowledge of the insurance business by serving on corporate boards and in corporate leadership positions. In 1988 she was elected chair of the board of directors of the United Mutual Life Insurance Company, the first African-American woman to hold that position. She was also the first woman to serve as president, of the Council of Insurance Brokers of Greater New York, Inc.

Thelma was also involved with many different organizations. She was an active member of the Iota Phi Lambda Sorority and a life long member and past president of the New York Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs Inc., a former chair of the board of the Greater Harlem Real Estate Board, and a founding member and past president of the Harlem Business Alliance. In April 1986 she was elected to the board of trustees at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina, and in 1998, she was awarded a Doctorate of Humane Letters by Shaw University.

Over the years, Thelma was recognized by the business and religious communities for her professional achievements and volunteer work to improve the quality of life for others, includ-

ing the NAACP, United Insurance Brokers of Greater New York, Harlem Commonwealth Council, Shaw University School of Divinity, The YWCA, and most recently, the Council of Insurance Brokers of Greater New York, Inc.

Thelma leaves behind a wealth of family and friends to honor her memory. She will be greatly missed by her sister, Irene McKenzie; 2 nephews, 1 niece, and a blessed abundance of cousins, friends and colleagues.

Madam Speaker, rather than mourn her passing, I hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the life of Dr. Thelma Goodrich-Hill by remembering that she exemplified greatness in every way.

HONORING CHERYL PETTY

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, this weekend at its State convention, Alpha Delta Kappa, an international honorary organization of women educators dedicated to educational excellence, honored my dear friend Cheryl Petty with its Distinguished Teacher Award. I ask my colleagues to please join me in extending sincere congratulations.

Cheryl is a native of Franklin, Tennessee, and has given back to that community by educating its children—first at Johnson Elementary for 21 years, and now at Moore Elementary for the past 18. Cheryl began her teaching career after receiving a bachelor's degree in education from Vanderbilt University. She would later add a master's in education from Middle Tennessee State University.

Not content with her service to the Franklin Special School District and raising a family, Cheryl has become a cornerstone of our community through her membership in not only Alpha Delta Kappa, but also the Williamson County Cultural Arts Commission, Williamson County Republican Career Women, the Woman's Club of Nashville, the Professional Educators of Tennessee and the Heritage Foundation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the accomplishments of my friend Cheryl Petty and congratulating her and her family on this wonderful occasion.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER SAVING

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Saving, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christopher has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Christopher has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher Saving for his

accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support H. Res. 1079, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month 2008. With the economy in its current state, and with the anticipation of more hardships to come, it has become increasingly important for all Americans to have a basic understanding of financial systems and resources. Many of the challenges that we face today could have been avoided if more Americans were financially literate and able to make informed decisions while protecting themselves from abusive financial practices.

A recent 2008 Financial Literacy Survey prepared for the National Foundation on Credit Counseling and MSN Money highlights the growing need for quality financial literacy education. According to the report, over 50 million Americans have no money set aside for their own retirement, and roughly 76 million Americans have no savings outside of their retirement fund. Over 30 percent of Americans do not know their own credit score, and over 60 percent have not requested a free copy of their credit report in the past year. Approximately 40 million Americans make little or no effort to budget their finances or keep track of their own spending, and around 15 million Americans are being called by collectors and have seriously considered filing for bankruptcy. In the state of Texas, there were more than 184,000 prime and subprime mortgages in delinquency at the end of 2007, a situation that was closely linked to the lack of financial literacy among consumers. The problem is only worsened by the fact that one in four Americans say they would not consider buying a home at this time because they do not know enough to feel comfortable doing so.

By designating April as Financial Literacy Month, we are recognizing the importance of financial literacy and making an active effort to encourage and support quality financial literacy education programs. The American Dream cannot be obtained by those who suffer from dangerous consumer habits, poorly managed finances, unsustainable levels of debt, and barriers to mainstream financial services and institutions. Financial Literacy Month is a reminder for all of us to continue working so that every individual will have the tools and knowledge they need to attain financial security and strengthen our Nation's economy.

TRIBUTE TO DALLAS COMMUNITY MOTHERS AND THE LEGACY THEY LEAVE BEHIND

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to